

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM HARROP

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, EAID, ML

SUBJECT: MOOSE BILATERALS IN MALI

1. ISSUE - U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO MALI

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO MALI FROM
1961 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1977 TOTALLED 90.2 MILLION DOLLARS
OF WHICH 42.3 MILLION DOLLARS WAS FOOD FOR PEACE (PL 480
TITLES I AND II) AND 2.8 MILLION DOLLARS WAS FROM THE
PEACE CORPS. THE ESTIMATED FY 1978 LEVEL, EXCLUDING
PEACE CORPS, IS ABOUT 12 MILLION DOLLARS OF WHICH 2.1
MILLION DOLLARS IS PL 480 TITLE II FOOD. GRANT AID IN
FY 1979 IS PROJECTED AT 14.2 MILLION DOLLARS OF WHICH 0.6
MILLION DOLLARS IS PL 480 TITLE II FOOD. MALI WILL

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CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM VARIOUS REGIONAL AID PROJECTS
INCLUDING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THROUGH THE SENEGAL RIVER
BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (OMVS).

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI HAS SHOWN INCREASED AWARENESS
OF THE PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN
AGRICULTURE, WHICH IS THE MAINSTAY OF ITS ECONOMY. THE

COUNTRY HAS GOOD POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING ITS LIVESTOCK AND FOOD CROP PRODUCTION, A MAJOR GOAL OF AID'S PROGRAM. THE MALIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN EMPHASIZES INCREASING AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, RECONSTITUTING THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK AND FOOD CROP PRODUCTION, A MAJOR GOAL OF AID'S PROGRAM. THE MALIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN EMPHASIZES INCREASING AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, RECONSTITUTING THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK HERDS AND REDUCING INFRASTRUCTURAL BOTTLENECKS WHICH HAMPER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. INCREASED FUNDS ARE BEING GIVEN TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND EXTENSION SERVICES, AND MORE ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF PRICES AND INCENTIVES TO PRODUCTION. THERE IS ALSO INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING, PARTICULARLY AS IT AFFECTS MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH.

TALKING POINTS:

-- AID ASSISTANCE TO MALI HAS RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY - FROM 3 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1976 TO AN EXPECTED 14 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 1979.

-- MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS ARE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AIM TO HELP THE POOREST PEOPLE OF MALI.

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-- PROJECTS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY ARE AID TO THE OPERATION HAUTE VALLEE (INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT) AND TO WHEAT PRODUCTION (ACTION BLE) AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY SOURCES.

3. ISSUE: MALI-SOVIET RELATIONS AND DEFENSE EXPENDITURES

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: MALI HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIETS CONCENTRATE ASSISTANCE TO MALI ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR MALIAN ARMED FORCES. SOPHISTICATED SOVIET SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS MIG AIRCRAFT, ARMORED VEHICLES, MEDIUM TANKS AS WELL AS THE SOVIET AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN BAMAKO GREATLY EXCEED MALI'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MALI IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND, PERHAPS, CHEAPEST MEANS OF INSURING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN A REGIME DOMINATED BY MILITARY OFFICERS. SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS SMALL AND NOT VERY EFFICIENT WHEN COMPARED TO THE PROGRAMS OF WESTERN NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH MALI RECOGNIZES THIS, IT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO OVER-

LOOK THIS FACT AS LONG AS THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH THE MALIAN ESTABLISHMENT FEELS
IT NEEDS .

4. MALIAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY
22 PERCENT OF THE 1978 BUDGET. IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, THE
EXPENDITURES HAVE INCREASED BY 2.8 MILLION DOLLARS
ABOVE 1974 LEVELS ALTHOUGH PERCENTAGE PORTIONS OF THE
BUDGET FOR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES HAVE REMAINED CONSTANT.
MALI SPENDS ALMOST 4 TO 5 TIMES MORE ON DEFENSE, PER-
CENTAGE WISE, THAN ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS. MOREOVER, MALI'S
DEFENSE EQUIPMENT BUDGET CONSTITUTES 36 PERCENT OF THE
TOTAL NATIONAL EQUIPMENT BUDGET. THE BUILT-IN COSTS OF
SUPPORTING AND RUNNING MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOW BEING
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RECEIVED VIRTUALLY GUARANTEES AN INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUD-
GETS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

TALKING POINTS:

-- MALI'S DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ARE EXCEEDINGLY HIGH FOR
A DEVELOPING COUNTRY SURROUNDED BY FRIENDLY NATIONS.

-- IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY TO THE U.S. CONGRESS
REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN VIEW OF MALI'S
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

-- DO MALI'S DEFENSE NEEDS REQUIRE THIS AMOUNT OF
EQUIPMENT?

-- THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS EQUIPMENT MUST BE A SEVERE
DEMAND ON MALI'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES. VANCE

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